THE

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OR,

CASUISTICAL MERCURY,

Reſolving all the moſt

Nice and Curious Queſtions

PROPOSED BY THE

INGENIOUS

Of Either Sex:

From *Tueſday, December* 20*th*. to *Saturday, April* 8*th*. 1693.

The Ninth Volume,

TREATING

On the ſeveral Subjects mentioned in the CONTENTS at the Beginning of the Book.

LONDON,

Printed for *John Dunton* at the *Raven* in the *Poultrey*. 1693.

Where is to be had the *Entire Set* of **Athenian Gazettes** (and the *Supplements* to 'em) for the Year 1691. (Or ſingle Ones to this Time.)

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PREFACE.

Gentlemen Queriſts!

(*For ſince you are ſo* Civil *to give us that* Title, *or* others *that perhaps We as little deſerve, We ought by all means to return your Kindneſs.*) Our Bookſeller *tells us he muſt needs have another* Preface, *which We think is very hard, conſidering how much we have told the World already: And beſides, to deal freely, 'tis to Us much eaſier to write the Volume than the Preface, becauſe half of one is ſupply'd to our Hands, but all the other muſt be pure Invention. However, ſomething or other We muſt tell you here, tho' perhaps as little to the purpoſe as ſome of your Queſtions and our Anſwers — And the way We chuſe to do it at preſent, ſhall be by plain dint of Query — Here's a few thouſand of 'em crowding in that muſt needs be all anſwer'd by the next* Mercury —— *Queſt.* 1. How comes it that after all your Promiſes to the contrary, there's ſtill ſuch a deal of impertinent Stuff in your *Mercury?* Anſw. *Han't we ſhifted all clear by our late Advertiſement, and (prudently enough tho' we ſay't) diſown'd all the* Nonſence *in't from the Beginning to the End, and what wou'd you have of us — If this won't ſatisfie ye, ſure nothing will.* —— *Queſt.* 2. Is not all that but a Trick, ſince we doubt the Nonſence is your own, and you can't do better? —— Anſw. *Still the more* unconſcionable *Wretches you then, that wou'd have* more *of a* Cat *than her* Skin, *and expect from us what you know we han't in us — When beſides we dare affirm that in all our paſt Prefaces, Volumes, nay, take in Advertiſements and all, We never yet promiſed to do more than We are able. Queſt.* 3. Why d'ye ſtuff your Paper with ſo many cramp Mathematical Queſtions? 4. Why ſo many fooliſh Love-Queſtions? 5. Why all theſe dry Morality and Divinity Queſtions? 6. What's this Philological ſtuff for? 7. When will ye have done with *Ariſtotle*'s old Mumpſimus? 8. How long muſt we be plagu'd with the Whimſical *Carteſian* Worlds and Elements? 9. Have we nothing to do think ye but to come to our *A*'s and *B*'s agen? for ſhame leave off this Virtuoſo Banter! 10. What a pother is here with your confounded Poetical Paper — four whole Collumes of — *eds*, and *does*'s, and Eternal *Sternholdiſms* —— 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. *&c. &c.* 1000 — *&c.* —— Why? Why? Why? What? When? Which? How? Wherefore? *&c.* —— *Nay, if there are ſo many of you, and all in ſuch* French *haſte, you are e'ne like to ſtay 'till we think fit to open the Gates t'ye —— for to deal plainly,* Gentlemen, *We don't think we are upon the ſquare W'ye — We can't preſent you above twice a Week with a ſmall parcel of Impertinencies, moſt of 'em none of our own, and you think 'tis fair Reprizal to* Dumfound *us with Familiar Epiſtles enough to make* Paper-Kites *for all the* Foundlings *in* Venice, *'till they take* Candy *from the* Turks *agen: Nay what's worſe, will all be angry if we don't Print twenty* Ream *a* Week *to Anſwer ye — and if this be fair, let any* Mortal Author *judge.* —— *Nay, We know what you'll ſay, but We can't help it — You Huff and Cry — Look to thy ſelf* Athens, *We'll away to* Lacedemon, *the* Jovial, *the* Lady *Mercurians, the Aſtrologers, the Jack-Puddings; if one won't we'll try whether another will —— Very well; Adieu Gent. if you are in ſuch haſte; however let's have* Even Reckonings *firſt, which as the Sagacity of ſome Ancient* Hoſteſs *has admirably well obſerv'd, and at laſt form'd into a* Proverb, *are extreamly conducing to a true and laſting* Friendſhip: *In Order to which, once more We don't care if we tell you that all your Queſtions to which We either* can *give an Anſwer, or think 'em* worth *one, ſhall receive it one time or other, unleſs they chance to ſlip behind others that are more remarkable: And this We'll do for our own ſakes as well as yours; for look you we're ſo gruff upon't, ſtamp, fume, bite your Nails and Thumbs too if you pleaſe, yet We're reſolv'd to live ſtill as* Merry *and* Honeſt *as We can, to* Laugh *at the* Ill-natur'd, *and* Pity *the* Vitious Fools, *and to remain* Well-wiſhers *and* hearty Friends *to all Mankind, and more particularly*

Worthy Patrons,

Moſt Noble, moſt Learned, moſt Judicious, moſt Ingenious — moſt — what you pleaſe!

Your Obliged Humble Servants,

&c. &c. &c.

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